

Letters to the editor

Downers Grove Reporter

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District 99 incumbents not showing leadership

An advertisement that ran in your paper earlier this month about the District 99 Caucus claims the caucus endorsed candidates representing a hidden agenda and only have a single issue, the sale of the District 99 land.

While resolution of the land issue is certainly important, what is more important is the way the incumbents have handled the issue and what it says about their leadership abilities.

Continuing to spend large amounts of money litigating this issue rather than selling the land at an independently appraised price, as agreed to by previous District 99 boards, indicates questionable fiscal decision-making and misplaced priorities. Marketing the property as available for high-density, multi-family development in the heart of our town center shows a complete disregard for the citizens of Woodridge who would be impacted by this development.

By advertising the land in the Wall Street Journal and asking for bids on the property, District 99 forced Woodridge to start condemnation proceedings to prevent the sale of the property on the date of the advertised bid openings. To now imply that no resolution to the issue can be pursued because Woodridge initiated litigation is not only disingenuous, it's deceitful.

The question before the citizens of District 99 is not whether or not to sell the district's land, but whether or not they want to continue to be represented by a board of incumbents who have mismanaged this entire situation. If the incumbents had really wished to serve "the entire District 99 community" as they say in their ad, we would not be in the current situation.

Susan and Peter Van Veen

Woodridge, District 99 Caucus Members